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This is the WTSP Editorial for tonight.

It cannot be charged seriously that Senator William Fulbright conducted an overly partisan inquiry into the U-2 episode. So his speech to the Senate yesterday is another serious indictment of the administration's handling of the whole unfortunate business.

Time does not permit an evaluation of all the senator's criticisms about the sequence of events, including the official--and fumbling--American reaction to Khrushchev's drawing of the plans.

But one central issue in the controversy has been whether the information the Central Intelligence Agency was after justified sending the U-2 over the Soviet Union on May 1st, just 16 days before the Summit Conference. There is always the possibility that the data sought was so urgent as to justify the risk involved.

However, Senator Fulbright reported that the administration would not reveal to the Foreign Relations Committee, even under conditions of utmost secrecy, what the reconnaissance flight hoped to find. Thus, he charged, "there is ground... for the conclusion that the alleged extraordinary importance of this information is the administration's cover story for its own costly mistake."

This appraisal may be too harsh. Yet it is a fact that the President, the secretary of state and the secretary of defense did not, according to the testimony, have specific knowledge of the May 1st flight. The conclusion is very nearly inevitable that the decision to send off a mission which could--and did--have serious repercussions was not given the top-level attention it deserved. And while the U-2 may not be regarded as spilled milk, there will always be the strong suspicion that the series of blunders and bad luck began because no one was actively minding the store.

That's tonight WTSP Editorial, Jack Jurey speaking for WTSP.